

SUMMONS ISSUED

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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U.S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.N.Y.

★ JAN 18 2011 ★

BROOKLYN OFFICE

Matthew Hochstrasser,

Plaintiff,

v.

Diversified Consultants, Inc.; and
DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Civil Case No.

CV 11-0293

COMPLAINT **WEXLER, J.**
WALL, M.J.

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Matthew Hochstrasser, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. This action arises out of the Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of the Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendants and their agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.

2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

PARTIES

4. The Plaintiff, Matthew Hochstrasser ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Manorville, New York, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

5. Defendant Diversified Consultants, Inc. ("Diversified"), is a Florida business

entity with an address of 10550 Deerwood Park Boulevard, Suite 309, Jacksonville, Florida, 32256-2805, operating as a collection agency, and is a “debt collector” as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

6. Does 1-10 (the “Collectors”) are individual collectors employed by Diversified and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.

7. Diversified at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

A. The Debt

8. The Plaintiff incurred a financial obligation (the “Debt”) to a creditor (the “Creditor”).

9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a “debt” under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).

10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to Diversified for collection, or Diversified was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.

11. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in “communications” as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

B. Diversified Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

FACTS

12. Defendants called Plaintiff’s cellular phone line in an attempt to collect the debt with the intent to annoy and harass.

13. Defendants called Plaintiff after 9:00 p.m. in an attempt to collect the debt.

14. Defendants placed automated calls with pre-recorded voice messages on Plaintiff's cellular phone line in an attempt to collect the Debt.

15. Defendants were rude when speaking to Plaintiff, "We are going to keep on calling you! It's not going to go away!"

C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

16. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.

17. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

18. The Defendants' conduct was so outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree, as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.

COUNT I
VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA - 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

19. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

20. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(1) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff at a place and during a time known to be inconvenient for the Plaintiff.

21. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(1) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff before 8:00 a.m. and after 9:00 p.m.

22. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(5) in that Defendants caused

a phone to ring repeatedly and engaged the Plaintiff in telephone conversations, with the intent to annoy and harass.

23. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) in that Defendants employed false and deceptive means to collect a debt.

24. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.

25. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

COUNT II
INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

26. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein at length.

27. The acts, practices and conduct engaged in by the Defendants vis-à-vis the Plaintiff was so outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree, as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.

28. The foregoing conduct constitutes the tort of intentional infliction of emotional distress under the laws of the State of New York.

29. All acts of the Defendants and the Collectors complained of herein were committed with malice, intent, wantonness, and recklessness, and as such, the Defendants are subject to imposition of punitive damages.

COUNT III
VIOLATIONS OF NEW YORK GBL § 349
ENGAGING IN UNLAWFUL DECEPTIVE PRACTICES AND ACTS

30. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this

Complaint as though fully set forth herein at length.

31. The acts, practices and conduct engaged in by the Defendants and complained of herein constitute “deceptive acts and practices” within the meaning of Article 22A of the General Business Law of the State of New York, NY GBL § 349.

32. The Defendants willfully and knowingly engaged in conduct constituting deceptive acts and practices in violation of NY GBL § 349.

33. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the foregoing acts and practices, including damages associated with, among other things, humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment caused by the Defendants.

34. By virtue of the foregoing, the Plaintiff is entitled to recover actual damages, trebled, together with reasonable attorneys’ fees.

COUNT IV
VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT –
47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq.

35. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

36. Without prior consent the Defendants contacted the Plaintiff by means of automatic telephone calls or prerecorded messages at a cellular telephone or pager in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).

37. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, including every one of the above-cited provisions.

38. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of the Defendants’ violations.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff respectfully prays that judgment be awarded in the Plaintiff's favor and against the Defendants as follows:

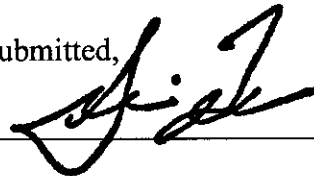
1. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
2. Against each of the named the Defendants, awarding the Plaintiff statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);
3. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff actual damages, trebled, pursuant to NY GBL § 349;
4. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff recovery of the costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3);
5. Statutory damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) & (C);
6. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff punitive damages in such amount as is found appropriate; and
7. Granting the Plaintiff such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: January 5, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

By



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